

I am responding to RM-10787 petition. I agree with this. Re-vamping of the entry level license is a great idea, and would allow those entering into Amateur Radio a bit more use. As it stands presently, the restrictions on Tech's now, really provides no incentives to want to learn more about ham radio. With cell phones being used by 10 year old children, who require no license.

Upgrading the existing techs to general will bring new life to the HF bands. Presently I hear a lot of total disregard for us techs, saying that we are not ham operators. Yet more and more HF operators are using the 2 Meter repeaters. So would this be a sign that they are so bored with the communications on HF that they seek out the younger more talkative Techs.

The elders do not wish for the techs to move up unless they go through all that they have to attain their license. That's fine, however, the times have changed, and so has the rest of the world. We can either choose to stay with old school teaching, and watch our hobby disappear or we can ask that things of this new world we all live in be accepted and change with it.

"Code" is no longer used by the military and all members of the armed forces that protect our nation, are not allowed to even transmit it over the air, why would we be forced to learn something that has no use outside of amateur radio?

Let those that have learned it and earned it use it, in a area of the band, but do not force their views on those of us that are still young enough to make a difference with the hobby and keep it alive.

If we do not change to meet the world challenges head on, we will begin to lose many amateurs. Myself, learning code is not going to happen, therefore, I will not be able to converse with others that do pass the code test. Learning another language is easy for some, for others it is not. Those that cannot, will lose interest and move to cell phones, where they do not require a test or a license.

Face it, Ham Radio must change and the days of using code are long gone. Those wanting to play "I-Spy" or "007" are not gaining anything by using code, it serves no purpose in the modern world of communications, although it is a valid mode, for hams only, it is not used by everyone and unless we are all on the same page here communications will break-down, and thus interest will be lost and the bands will be given to other more active forms.

Do away with this useless code thing, and let the hobby grow to its full potential. Do nothing but change a name and give few more things the new people can do, and watch them too become bored and move onto other more interesting forms of communications.

Please do not let Ham Radio die because of the views of a few, that think it is best to keep this "code", more than 75% of those that earned the privilege do not even use it, nor do they even remember what all the dits and dahs are.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Randy Schwanke  
Technician Class Operator  
KCONVI